

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) designed to support a sample (13) which is to be detected and/or analysed by a photothermal detection method using an irradiation pump beam (21-a) irradiating the sample (13) and a detection and/or analysis probe beam (22), ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said sample support comprises a substrate (11) supporting a stack of thin dielectric layers forming a Bragg mirror (12) on which the sample (13) will be supported, the stack of thin dielectric layers being used to reflect the pump beam (21-a) that reaches it.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the Bragg mirror (12) includes thin dielectric layers with a high refraction index, formed from a material ~~chosen~~ selected from among the group composed consisting of  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{HfO}_2$ ,  $\text{SiO}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{In}_2\text{O}_3$ .

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the Bragg mirror (12) includes thin dielectric layers with a low refraction index, formed from a material ~~chosen~~ selected from among the group composed consisting of  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgF}_2$  and  $\text{LiF}$ .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upper layer forming the Bragg mirror (12) is biocompatible with the sample (13).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upper layer forming the Bragg mirror (12) is a layer with a low refraction index.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A device ~~Device~~ for detection and/or analysis of a sample (13) by a photothermal method, ~~the~~ said device comprising a sample support (3, 10) according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 5, a means of lighting the sample supported by the said support and supplying, a pump beam (1, 21a), a means of detection and/or measurement of the absorption or reflection of the pump beam by the sample when it is illuminated by the said illumination means.

Claim 7 (Original): A device ~~Device~~ according to claim 6 ~~the previous claim~~, ~~characterized in that it also comprises a~~ further comprising means of positioning the said detection and/or measurement means.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A device ~~Device~~ according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means of illuminating the sample and providing the pump beam (1, 21a) is a laser source.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A device ~~Device~~ according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means of detection and/or measurement of absorption or reflection of the pump beam by the sample comprises a light source supplying a probe beam (2, 22) and means of detecting the deviation of the probe beam.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A device ~~Device~~ according to claim 9 the previous claim, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means of detecting the deviation of the probe beam (2, 22) comprise a multi-element photodiode or a simple photodiode.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim 6, wherein ~~Device~~ according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ the wavelength of the pump beam(1, 21a) is chosen so that the sample (13) is absorbent at this wavelength.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim 6, wherein ~~Device~~ according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ the wavelength of the pump

beam(1, 21a) is chosen so that markers provided on the sample (13) absorb light at this wavelength.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Use of the device according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 12~~ for a test, a diagnosis or detection of oligonucleotide hybridisation, in a liquid medium or in air, on a solid support for "screening" purposes or for the detection of hybridisation on biochips.